

## Blackbird

hoarding arsenic  
he fed it to  
enemies  
disguised as  
sweet camash  
invited anybody he  
didn't like to  
eat at his table

poison in the soup  
he boasted life  
and death powers  
30 or 40 vomited  
then died

later he slaughtered  
his wife she  
was so young and  
beautiful  
her licorice  
hair he said he  
couldn't help  
being jealous

then was  
sorry and  
starved himself  
to death  
first asking that  
his corpse be  
lashed to a  
grey horse  
and taken to a  
ragged bluff

they were  
buried together  
the horse  
screaming as  
earth came down

later the omahas  
chose this mound  
as the place  
to welcome  
white men

## Blue Stains On Their Hands

went into the pines  
and lived to be  
97 old man  
Dragon and his  
six sons

they coupled with their  
sisters in the dark  
stone hills,  
Ripton

suddenly they were a  
tribe spreading  
like fireweed

took over the  
rusted out trailers  
behind the blacksmith's

mushrooms and  
blueberries grew  
thru tin cans

they came down from  
the hills for  
whisky and  
to marry

none of them  
didn't get  
in trouble

blue stains on  
their hands  
smelling of  
leather

they kept their own  
dialect and the  
songs of the  
old man

they'll still  
kill for  
a woman